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SENATE

} REPORT
No. 616

BOUNDARY REVISION, ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH

AUGUST 4, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Moss, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 713]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 713) to revise the boundaries of the Zion National Park in the State of Utah, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, with amendments, and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

At page 2, line 16, change the word "end" to "and".

At page 2, line 22, change the word "an" to "and".

PURPOSE OF S. 713

The boundary revisions proposed by the reported bill would facilitate the preservation, protection, and administration of Zion National Park and the outstanding scenic and geological features which exist therein. Under this bill, approximately 3,420 acres would be added to the park. Of this, approximately 1,416 acres are in Federal ownership and the remainder, 2,004 acres, is privately owned. It has been estimated that the cost of the acquisition of the privately owned lands within the proposed additions will be about \$60,000.

The various proposed adjustments in the park's boundaries are explained in the report set forth below which was received from the Department of the Interior.

AGENCY REPORTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., June 15, 1959.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Your committee has requested a report on S. 713, a bill to revise the boundaries of the Zion National Park in the State of Utah, and for other purposes.

We recommend the enactment of S. 713, and further suggest two minor perfecting amendments.

This bill would authorize the addition of approximately 3,420 acres of land lying near to the south entrance of the park, and certain boundary revisions.

The Zion National Park contains a grandeur of colorful canyons and mesa scenery that ranks high among the superlative scenic areas in the world. It is noted for its deep, narrow canyons, sheer rock walls, and impressive individual rock masses such as the Great White Throne. The lavish display of color found there sets this area apart from all similar geological phenomena perhaps more than any other single feature. Moreover, there are few places that possess such superb examples of faulting, upheavals, settlements, warpings, volcanism, and other erosional manifestations. The plants and animals of the Zion National Park demonstrate many phases of environmental development that show the influence of these geological processes.

The boundary adjustments proposed by S. 713 would facilitate the preservation, protection, and administration of these spectacular geological features and make them more accessible to visitors.

One revision proposed involves a relocation of the northeast boundary of the park which would result in the addition of about 1,480 acres of land. The addition of these lands would make possible the preservation of a notable terraced lava field and would provide lands needed for an access road to the Lava Point Fire Lookout Station. Kolob Creek, thereby, would become the natural boundary of a portion of the park in this area and would also be available as an economical source of water for the nearby ranger station.

The bill would further authorize the addition of about 1,260 acres of land lying near the south entrance to the park. Some of this land, lying east of the Virgin River, is suitable for development as a residential and utility area, if future studies justify removal of the present development from the scenic Oak Creek Canyon. If not utilized for this purpose, it would be available for expansion of the adjoining campground. Other lands at the south entrance are needed as a protective area for the south face of the West Temple which is a feature already in the park.

A third boundary adjustment involves the addition of about 640 acres on the west side of the park. These lands provide the most feasible route for a proposed road that would give access to significant features in this section of the park. The remaining proposed boundary revision, in the northwest corner of the park, involves the exclusion of approximately $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land to facilitate the realignment of U.S. Highway 91 and the inclusion of about 40 acres lying east of such

relocated highway. Thereby, the easterly right-of-way line of U.S. Highway 91 would become the boundary of the park throughout section 29, township 38 south, range 12 west. Under authority contained in the bill, the Secretary would be authorized to convey to the Utah State Road Commission the lands required as a right-of-way for U.S. Highway 91, in exchange for which the State of Utah would agree to construct an interchange that would provide vehicular access between that highway and the Zion National Park.

Hearings were held in Cedar City, Utah, on June 12, 1957, at which time the boundary adjustment proposals planned for the Zion National Park were presented, along with those for the Arches and Capitol Reef National Monuments. The public reaction to these proposals was favorable.

Approximately 1,416 acres of the land area included in the proposed additions are in Federal ownership and the remainder, about 2,004 acres, is privately owned. It has been estimated that the cost of acquisition of the privately owned lands within the proposed additions would be about \$60,000.

We would suggest two minor perfecting amendments, one on page 2, line 16, where the word "end" be changed to "and", and on page 2, line 22, where the word "an" be changed to "and".

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ERNST,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D.C., June 8, 1959.

Hon. JAMES E. MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Bureau of the Budget with respect to S. 713, a bill to revise the boundaries of the Zion National Park in the State of Utah, and for other purposes.

The report which the Secretary of the Interior is submitting on this bill sets forth the reasons for the desired boundary revisions, and other details concerning the proposed land transfer and acquisition.

This Bureau concurs in the views expressed in that report and accordingly would not object to the enactment of S. 713.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIP S. HUGHES,
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.

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